

WYCOMBE WANDERERS 2, OXFORD CITY 0

THERE WAS quite a bit of the Christmas touch about things when Wycombe Wanderers brought about the revival of their annual Boxing Day feature with Oxford City now that the City are back in the top division of the Berger Isthmian League. The Wanderers won 2-0 but there was a good deal of charity about their finishing. And unfortunately the Boxing Day crowd was nothing above the normal, probably due to lack of public transport. But there was one Wanderers' supporter of 60 years standing who had walked in from Flackwell Heath.

Due to the unavailability of both Steve Hardwick and John Priestley, Les Reed came in at mid-field on the right and Howard Kennedy moved into the central position for Wycombe.

The Wanderers were quickly on the attack and in the second minute Les Reed shot high over the bar, other efforts were blocked by the Oxford defence. Andy Sinnott started the first Oxford attack with a crossfield run which was eventually stopped on the edge of the penalty area.

The Wanderers scored an excellent goal after 10 minutes. Terry Scott sent a crossfield ball into the path of Paul Birdseye, who centred deep to the far post, Mick Holifield headed back across the goal where it was met by Scott with his head to the unmarked Stewart Atkins who headed neatly home. A brilliantly contrived goal and excellently executed.

During the next 12 minutes the Blues could have increased their lead threefold, but following some very good football first Scott shot wide and Kennedy high over the bar and then the Oxford keeper made a great save from Howard Kennedy's drive.

The Wycombe defence contained the spasmodic Ox-

ford attacks without undue problem.

Just on the half hour Wycombe had another opportunity to go further ahead, when Les Reed

AWAY AGAIN

WYCOMBE Wanderers are away to Hitchin Town in the Berger Isthmian League on Saturday, K.O. 3 p.m.

On New Year's Day they visit Oxford City, K.O. 3 p.m.

On Saturday January 6, they are again away to Tooting and Mitcham (3 p.m.).

Saturday January 13 brings Barking to Loakes Park in the F.A. Trophy 1st Round, the first time the Wanderers have ever been at home in the competition.

ford slipped his marker, took the ball to the bye-line and chipped over a centre which was volleyed over by Scott, when it seemed easier to

score. This was followed by another great save from keeper Ounsworth. Good passing between Stewart Atkins and Dylan Evans resulted in Scott being put through, but the keeper dealt outstandingly with Terry's very good effort.

In the 37th minute came the first corner of the game and strangely it fell to the City. The corner was well punched away by John Maskell. This was followed by a period of poor passing by the Blues which created unnecessary pressure on the defence, but it came to nothing.

Play moved to the other end and Scott broke through and pulled the ball back from the bye-line, but it was just too far back for Alan Phillips to knock in.

OXFORD HAPPY

If Wycombe had gone in three goals up Oxford could not have complained, but it was only one and the Oxford manager must have been delighted. Having been submitted to so much pressure and then at half time to find you are still only one goal down with another half to come, he was obviously able to motivate his lads. From the Wycombe viewpoint it was good to see so many shots being made when there had been a famine at Hendon when players seemed reluctant to try their luck.

There were shots either end at the start of the second half. The re-arranged Wycombe mid-field became a bit untidy and consequently the City came more into the game. But Wycombe came back and Atkins missed badly from close in, from a short cross by Scott. A Kennedy free-kick was headed into the keeper's arms by Phillips.

THIRD CORNER

Oxford had their third corner at the 65th minute which was cleared with some difficulty. Kennedy had a hard shot well saved by the keeper and was also just wide when Evans rolled the ball back to him. The Blues had Atkins injured when trying a solo run through the middle. He was replaced by Steve Long in the 76th minute. As soon as Long came on Wycombe won their first corner.

Oxford moved on to the attack in an effort to get the equaliser but the Wycombe defence dealt competently with the situation. The ball was moved to the other end where Scott moved towards the goal, looked up and saw the City keeper off his line and from 25 yards chipped a beautiful lob into the net. An excellently taken goal and well deserved for all the good football Terry had played. This goal came in the 84th minute.

The last six minutes brought another fruitless corner to Wycombe and a booking for the tall City No. 5, Nick Sergeant, who brought down Evans from behind just outside the box when he was going for goal. The free-kick was hit high over the bar by Kennedy.

A good and justified result for the Wanderers who could well have earned a bonus with a little more accuracy with some of their many shots at goal.

WYCOMBE WANDERERS: John Maskell, Paul Birdseye, Bob Davies, Keith Mead, Alan Phillips, Les Reed, Stewart Atkins, Mick Holifield, Dylan Evans, Howard Kennedy, Terry Scott. Sub. Steve Long.

OXFORD CITY: D. Ounsworth, M. Allan, A. Glass, J. Woodley, N. Sergeant, J. Lever, S. Massey, B. McCrae, P. Dallaway, M. Prestcote, A. Sinnott. Sub. P. Duffey (not used).